

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 USUN N 01408 071126Z POSS DUPE
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /104 W
-----081127Z 071977 /12
R 061636Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3490

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 1408

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 -(C-24): PUERTO RICO

1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARA 2 THE TEXT OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO
AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM GLAYEL (SYRIA), C-24 RAPPOREUR.

2. BEGIN TEXT: I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE DECISION
CONCERNING PUERTO RICO WHICH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ADOPTED AT
ITS 1051ST MEETING ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1976. IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THIS DECISION, THE RAPPOREUR OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAS
BEEN CHARGED WITH BRINGING THE 1974 REPORT ON THE SUBJECT
UP TO DATE. FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING ITS CONSIDERATION
OF THE QUESTION IN 1977.

IN ORDER TO ASSIST ME IN FULFILLING THIS TASK, I WOULD
BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE ALL INFORMATION WHICH, IN THE OPINION
OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, IS PERTINENT TO THE QUESTION OF SELF-
DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE WITH REGARD TO PUERTO RICO,
AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE VIEWS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THE MATTER.
ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT.

3. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 USUN N 01408 071126Z POSS DUPE

THAT, OTHER THAN ASSEMBLING DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL, NO
WORK HAS YET BEGUN ON THE DRAFT UPDATE OF THE 1974
REPORT ON PUERTO RICO.

4. RECOMMENDQTION: USUN BELIEVES THAT WE SHOULD
REPLY IN A BRIEF BUT COURTEOUS LETTER REITERATING
OUR VIEWS ON UN CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. THERE

FOLLOWS IN PARAGRAPH 5 A SUGGESTED TEXT FOR SUCH A LETTER.

5. BEGIN TEXT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MAY 5, REQUESTING THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON SELF-DETERMINATION WITH REGARD TO PUERTO RICO. US VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE WELL KNOWN, BUT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO REITERATE THOSE VIEWS ON THIS OCCASION. UNITED STATES POLICY ON PUERTO RICO IS BASED ON COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO EXERCISED THAT RIGHT IN APPROVING COMMONWEALTH STATUS AND THEIR OWN CONSTITUTION IN 1952. THE REAFFIRMED THAT CHOICE IN A STATUS REFERENDUM IN 1967, PARTICIPATED IN BY 60 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE, IN WHICH 60.41 PERCENT VOTED FOR COMMONWEALTH STATUS, 38.98 PERCENT VOTED FOR STATEHOOD AND 0.60 PERCENT VOTED FOR INDEPENDENCE. IN 1953, THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE SELF-GOVERNMENT STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND REMOVED PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES BY ADOPTING RESOLUTION 748 (VIII). THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RE-AFFIRMED THAT DECISION IN 1971 WHEN IT REJECTED AN ATTEMPT TO INSCRIBE AN ITEM CONCERNIN PUERTO RICO ON THE AGENDA OF ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION. IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1953 THAT IF THE PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF INDEPENDENCE, THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS THAT INDEPENDENCE BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 USUN N 01408 071126Z POSS DUPE

GRANTED. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED REPEATEDLY THAT HE WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER STATUS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH BUT THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR ANY CHANGE IN STATUS SHOULD COME FROM THEM.

IN NOVEMBER 1976, THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO VOTED IN FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS FOR THEIR GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE, RETURNING THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY TO POWER AND GIVING ONLY 6 PERCENT OF THEIR VOTE TO THE TWO PARTIES SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS OFTEN MADE CLEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS IS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES. AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH TO CONTINUE THE RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO AND UNITED STATES, DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS OR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF THAT RELATIONSHIP AS "COLONIAL" IS OFFENSIVE TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES. END TEXT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ARE
REQUESTED.
YOUNG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INDEPENDENCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01408
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770161-1242
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770583/aaaactqv.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 16a50799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2610527
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE OF 24 -(C-24): PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, US, SY, RQ, UN, C-24
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/16a50799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009